

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining predicted user satisfaction data regarding the performance of a search mechanism which provides search results in response to user queries, comprising:
 - storing at least one predictive pattern for predicting user satisfaction with said provided search results from data regarding user behavior in response to a query; and
 - applying said predictive pattern to ~~at least one element of~~ context-based user behavior data comprising user feedback data and context data associated with the user feedback data, the context-based user behavior data acquired after receipt by a user of previous search results; said elements of context-based user behavior data comprising a performed query, provided search results, and user behavior data; and
 - generating predicted user satisfaction data based on the application of the predictive pattern to the ~~at least one element of~~ context-based user behavior data, the predicted user satisfaction data comprising an indication of ~~user satisfaction~~ that a user experiences in evaluating search results, wherein the predicted user satisfaction data is used to monitor the performance of a search mechanism.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said storing at least one predictive pattern comprises utilizing data mining techniques to determine at least one predictive pattern for user satisfaction.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where said context-based user behavior data comprises explicit user feedback data. ~~collected from said user contemporaneously with said performed query.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where said context-based user behavior data comprises implicit user feedback data.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, where said context-based user behavior data is selected from the group comprising: user navigation to a new page using a hyperlink;

user navigation to a new page using a history list; user navigation to a new page using an address bar; user navigation to a new page using a favorites list; user scrolling behavior; user document printing behavior; user adding a document to said favorites list; user switching focus to a different application; user switching focus back from a different application; user closing a window; user dwell time behavior; user initiation of a new query; sequences of user behaviors; and user inactivity without switching focus from a window relating to said performed query.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said application of said predictive pattern yields predicted user satisfaction data regarding said search mechanism, and where said method further comprises:

displaying said predicted user satisfaction data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said application of said predictive pattern further comprises isolating a set of said performed queries which are unsatisfactory and which share a common characteristic.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said context-based user behavior data comprises a testing set of context-based user behavior data.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A system for obtaining predicted user satisfaction data regarding the performance of a search mechanism which provides search results in response to user queries, comprising:

storage for storing at least one predictive pattern for predicting user satisfaction with a said provided search results from data regarding user behavior in response to a query, wherein the predictive pattern is a model that predicts user satisfaction based on the context-based user behavior data; and

data mining apparatus for applying said predictive pattern to ~~at least one element of~~ context-based user behavior data, said ~~elements of~~ context-based user behavior data

comprising user feedback data and context data associated with the user feedback data, the context-based user behavior data acquired after receipt by a user of previous search results, a performed query, provided search results, and user behavior data.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, where said predictive pattern is derived from the use of data mining techniques to determine at least one predictive pattern for user satisfaction.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, where said context-based user behavior data comprises explicit user feedback data. ~~collected from said user contemporaneously with said performed query.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, where said context-based user behavior data comprises implicit user feedback data.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, where said context-based user behavior data is selected from the group comprising: user navigation to a new page using a hyperlink; user navigation to a new page using a history list; user navigation to a new page using an address bar; user navigation to a new page using a favorites list; user scrolling behavior; user document printing behavior; user adding a document to said favorites list; user switching focus to a different application; user switching focus back from a different application; user closing a window; user dwell time behavior; user initiating a new query; sequences of user behaviors; and user inactivity without switching focus from a window relating to said performed query.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10, where said data mining apparatus produces predicted user satisfaction data regarding said search mechanism, and where said method further comprises:

displaying said predicted user satisfaction data.

16. (Original) The system of claim 10, where said data mining apparatus further isolates a set of said performed queries which are unsatisfactory and which share a common characteristic.

17. (Original) The system of claim 10, where said context-based user behavior data comprises a testing set of context-based user behavior data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A system for real-time optimization of a search mechanism which provides search results in response to user queries, comprising:

means for storing at least one predictive pattern for predicting user satisfaction with said provided search results from data regarding user behavior in response to a query, wherein the predictive pattern is a model that generates predicted user satisfaction data based on context-based user behavior data;

means for applying said predictive pattern to ~~at least one element of~~ context-based user behavior data comprising user feedback data and context data associated with the user feedback data, the context-based user behavior data acquired after receipt by a user of

~~previous search results; , said elements of context-based user behavior data comprising a performed query, provided search results, and user behavior data; and~~

means for outputting predicted user satisfaction data indicative of a level of satisfaction experienced by a user of search results returned by the search mechanism, the outputted predicted user satisfaction data based on the application of said predictive pattern.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising isolating problematic queries based on the predicted user satisfaction data.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a summary of measured satisfaction based on the predicted user satisfaction data.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring a search mechanism responsive to the predicted user satisfaction data.